

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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Public Safety Targets Impaired Driving During Holidays *Troopers Work to Ensure Highway Safety*

MONTGOMERY — Alabama state troopers encourage motorists to drive safely and defensively throughout the upcoming Christmas and New Year's holidays, said Col. J. Christopher Murphy, director of the Alabama Department of Public Safety. Troopers also urge motorists to refrain from drinking and driving and vow to target impaired driving throughout the holiday, he said.

All available troopers will be on patrol during peak holiday travel times, said Murphy. They will emphasize DUI enforcement during patrols and checkpoints in an effort to remove drivers impaired by alcohol or drugs from Alabama's roadways. Grants from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and Alabama Department of Transportation will help support the additional patrol effort.

Enforcement activity will include a special DUI enforcement program, Task Force Zero - Zero Tolerance for Impaired Driving. Troopers assigned to DUI enforcement teams will target impaired driving during saturation details and checkpoints at selected locations statewide.

"The safety of all who will be traveling to be with family and friends during this joyous season is the goal of Alabama's state troopers," said Murphy. "There is no greater threat to roadway safety than a driver impaired by alcohol or drugs. Troopers will seek out and arrest those who commit this crime."

Murphy also advised motorists to buckle up, obey speed limits and all other traffic laws.

The 102-hour Christmas travel period begins at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21, and ends at midnight Christmas day, Tuesday, Dec. 25. In 2006, nine people died in traffic crashes on Alabama roadways during a 78-hour Christmas period. Alcohol was a factor in at least four of the deaths, and five of the wreck victims were not using safety belts.

The 102-hour New Year's travel period begins at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28, and ends at midnight on New Year's Day, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008. Last year 10 people died during the 78-hour New Year's travel period. At least two of the

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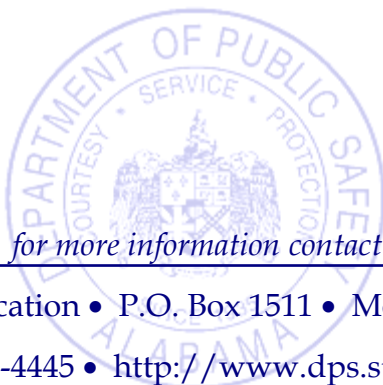
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deaths were alcohol related, and five of the crash victims were not using safety belts.

Police agencies nationwide traditionally join in a combined effort to promote traffic safety and save lives during the holidays. National Holiday Lifesaver Weekend Dec. 21-23 is a national traffic safety campaign held the weekend before Christmas and sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Alabama's troopers will help support the campaign's goal of saving lives by stepping up enforcement and safety awareness activity during the period.

Holiday Lifesaver Weekend also is a focus period of Operation CARE – Combined Accident Reduction Effort – a joint effort by state police nationwide to promote traffic safety through intensive traffic enforcement and safety education during designated holiday travel periods.

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